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PATENT

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Appl. No. : 09/879,981 Confirmation No. 5066  
Applicant : Robert C. Covington, Jr., et al.  
Filed : June 14, 2001  
Group Art Unit : 2171  
Examiner : Marcin R. Filipczyk

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JUN 03 2004

Docket No. : 11421/5 Technology Center 2100  
Customer No. : 23838

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**EXPEDITED PROCESSING REQUESTED**

**AFTER-FINAL AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE PURSUANT TO 37 CFR §1.116**

Sir:

The following amendments and remarks are responsive to the Final Office Action (Paper No. 8) dated March 30, 2004, and are being filed within the three month shortened statutory period set by the Examiner.

Applicants have presented amendments and remarks to place the application in condition for allowance or in better form for consideration on appeal and the Examiner is respectfully requested to admit this Amendment for consideration.

**Amendments to the Claims** begin on page 2.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 10.